NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NMHED)

Research & Public Service Project (RPSP) and other Funding Requests

FY2028

Print, sign, and submit cover sheet and individual submissions to NMHED by September 15, 2026

Institution: New Mexico Military Institute

Primary Contact for
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Governing Board Signature: M. Christina Montoya (Sep 15, 2026 11:36:11 MDT) **Date:** 09/15/2026

Institutional Rank (priority)	Program/Project Title *(Please ensure your Program/Project Title are named the same in all documents)*	Request in FY28	New Program (X)	Expansion Program (X)	Continuing Program (X)	Closeout Program (X)
1	General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship	$ 1,760,000.00			X	
2	Athletics Travel	$ 850,000.00			X	
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	Total Funding Request	**$ 2,610,000.00**				**0**

Please insert additional lines as needed.

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NMHED)

Research & Public Service Project (RPSP)

FY2028

Fill and submit packet to NMHED per instructions by September 15, 2026

Formula Do not Override

Institution: New Mexico Military Institute

Formula Do not Override

Title of Project: General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship

RPSP Type: Continuing - Funding to maintain existing service levels

RPSP Account Code: 97800-9782-7420 Knowles legislative scholarship program

Note: Ensure you are choosing the account code for your HEI. If it is not listed leave blank.

FY28 Funding Request: $ 1,760,000.00

If previously funded, enter amount that was awarded in FY27 OpBud. $ -

Type of Project: Academic

1 Number of years the project has received General Fund support: (Disregard if new program)

22

Increase cell size as necessary for narratives, if you are sending a PDF please be sure your narratives are fully visible.

2 **Project Description/Executive Summary:**

The General Richard T. Knowles Legislator Scholarship was first enacted in 1989 by the New Mexico Legislature. The objective of this program is specifically clear in the Act that authorizes this program. NMSA 21-12-11 states that "the purpose of this program is to increase the number of New Mexico residents attending the New Mexico Military Institute and to increase the opportunity for promising young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a military education and environment." Each of New Mexico's 112 legislators may nominate a student from their district for scholarship consideration to the Institute. Each eligible nominee selected will receive a scholarship to help offset the cost of attendance at the New Mexico Military Institute. The Legislators did not start appropriating funds to this program until 2006 of which was only a portion of the annual awards. In 2015, the Legislators began funding the program with a general appropriation for $1,359,100 which funded an average of 200 eligible New Mexico students. The General Richard T. Knowles Legislative scholarship is available to New Mexico residents. The criteria for the Legislative scholarship are as follows:

• If the student is entering 9th through 12th grade they must have a 2.25 or higher grade point average.

• If the student is entering the junior college, they must have a 2.0 or higher grade point average for all high school courses and a 18+ ACT score or a 870+ SAT score.

3 **Budget Narrative (Overview only - Budget Detail follows on next worksheet):**

General appropriation of $1,760,000 which would fund about 200 New Mexico students costs of attendance at New Mexico Military Institute.

4 **Program Mission (Include population served, other demographic information):**

The purpose of the program is to increase the number of New Mexico residents attending the New Mexico Military Institute and to increase the opportunity for promising young people that might not otherwise have the opportunity, to participate in a military education and environment. This program was legislatively created in NMSA 21-12-11 of the New Mexico statutes. Each nominee that is selected will receive a scholarship to help offset the cost of attendance at the New Mexico Military Institute.

5 **Key Project Objectives (Overview only - Details and Measures on following worksheet):**

To continue to be able to increase the number of New Mexico residents attending the New Mexico Military Institute.

6 **For existing projects, describe major accomplishments in a single paragraph, and if applicable, any obstacles encountered the previous fiscal year. For new projects, identify the top objectives and challenges for the current fiscal year:**

This program can contribute up to a maximum of 448 scholarship awards for New Mexico Military Institute students if fully funded. This is a great enhancement to institutional awards granted and at maximum levels equates to 41% of the total number of institutional awards granted. Presently, these awards equate to approximately 25% of the institutional awards granted. The goal is for each award to at least cover 40% of the cost of attendance at NMMI, however, in FY 24 the program was able to fund 100% of a cadet's cost. For the majority of students offered this scholarship award is the determining factor as to whether or not they will choose to attend NMMI, and as such this scholarship has a substantial impact on the school.
It has been determined that 80% of NMMI cadets have enrolled in higher education subsequent to their experience at NMMI. Many of these cadets stay within New Mexico; however, many go on to attend schools throughout the United States as well as the world. NMMI offers a very intense math/science curriculum that provides students with a solid base of knowledge so that they can successfully achieve a higher level of education after they leave the Institute. This same knowledge will benefit these individuals when they enter the workforce. The major concern with this project is financial in nature. A decrease in funding from state appropriations may affect the scholarship program in the future. A recurring appropriation is necessary to fund the annual awards. The ultimate goal is for this endowment to grow such that the earnings would be able to sustain the annual scholarship award distributions.
Without the ability to provide this funding, NMMI would lose a great number of young scholars from throughout the state which would impact the school, as well as the region,

7 **Describe the Project Impact (Statewide impact, Governor's initiatives, and/or specific student outcomes):**

For the majority of students that are offered this scholarship, this award is the determining factor as to whether or not they will choose to attend the Institute, and as such, this scholarship has a great impact on the school. Without the ability to provide this funding NMMI would lose a great number of students which would impact the school, as well as the region, negatively. Presently these awards equate to approximately 25% of the institutional awards granted. Due to the fact that this scholarship is allocated amongst all of the state's 112 legislators, the impact of the Knowles Scholarship Program is state-wide. The scholarship offers aid to students from throughout the state which give them the opportunity to further their education which in turn impacts their ability to continue their education within New Mexico
or their ability to enter the workforce in New Mexico. NMMI's model of a military environment reduces the variables that are characteristic of an "at risk" student. NMMI's history of achievement scores in comparison to New Mexico is a measurement of the school's success in elevating students proficiency levels which is an "at risk" predictor.

8 **Describe Student Population Served (in-state vs out-of-state students):**

	This program is only for in-state students.	

9 **Does the project receive awards, private donations or federal grants? Have you sought out funding from other sources?**

The project does not receive awards, donations, or Federal monies as it is specifically for the 112 New Mexico legislators. This program is not eligible for Federal awards.

10 **Medical Projects Only - How many graduates stay and practice in New Mexico?**

RPSP-Budget 1

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NMHED)
Research & Public Service Project (RPSP)
Project Budget Sheet

Institution: *Formula Do Not Override*
New Mexico Military Institute

RPSP Project: *Formula Do Not Override*
General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship

Total: *Formula Do Not Override*
$ 1,760,000.00

Budget verses Actual ******Enter data in Yellow cells only******

Revenue and Transfers	FY26 RPSP Expenditures	Budget FY27 (OpBud)	Change Requested	Request FY28	Comments
			Formula Do Not Override		
Beginning Fund Balance			$ -	$ -	
Appropriations					
Federal			$ -		
State plus Tobacco Settlement Fund	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 406,300.00	$ 1,760,000.00	
Local			$ -		
Total Appropriations	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 406,300.00	$ 1,760,000.00	
Grants and Contracts					
Federal			$ -		
State			$ -		
Local			$ -		
Total Grants and Contracts	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	
Private Gifts, Grants and Contracts			$ -		
Land & Permanent Fund or Local Property Taxes			$ -		
Tuition and Fees			$ -		
Endowment			$ -		
Sales and Services			$ -		
Other Sources - Detail in Comments			$ -		
Total Revenues	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 406,300.00	$ 1,760,000.00	
Transfers (to) from					
Instruction and General			$ -		
Student Social and Cultural			$ -		
Research			$ -		
Public Service			$ -		
Internal Service			$ -		
Student Aid			$ -		
Auxiliary Enterprises			$ -		
Athletics			$ -		
Independent Operations			$ -		
Capital Outlay			$ -		
Renewal and Replacement			$ -		
Total Transfers	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	

Expenses - If multiple revenue sources, provide a breakdown of each revenue source per expense category

	FY27 FTE		Change FTE		Change FTE	$ -	FY28 FTE		
Faculty Salaries			0.0		0.0	$ -			
Professional Salaries			0.0		0.0	$ -			
Other Staff Salaries			0.0		0.0	$ -			
Student Salaries (GA/TA)			0.0		0.0	$ -			
Other Salaries			0.0		0.0	$ -			
Total All Salaries	0.0	$ -	0.0	$ -	0.0	$ -	0.0	$ -	
Fringe Benefits						$ -			
Travel						$ -			
Utilities						$ -			
Institutional Support Charges						$ -			
Plant Operation and Maintenance Charges						$ -			
Supplies and Expenses						$ -			
Equipment						$ -			
Other Expenditures		$ 1,353,700.00		$ 1,353,700.00		$ 406,300.00		$ 1,760,000.00	
Total Expenditures	0.0	$ 1,353,700.00	0.0	$ 1,353,700.00	0.0	$ 406,300.00	0.0	$ 1,760,000.00	
Ending Fund Balance		$ -		$ -		$ -		$ -	

RPSP-Objectives 1

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (NMHED)
Research & Public Service Project (RPSP)
Project Objectives Sheet

Institution: New Mexico Military Institute

RPSP Project: General Richard T. Knowles Legislative Scholarship

Total $ 1,760,000.00

	Demonstrable goal based on benefit to students (especially at-risk), generation of degrees (especially STEM-H) and the people of New Mexico	Actuals for FY26	Target for FY27	Target for FY28	Comments - Demonstrate consistent improvement as a result of the awarded RPSP, trends, etc.
1	Maintain adequate appropriations to be able to sustain the annual scholarship awards as well as provide funds towards the endowment balance.	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 1,353,700.00	$ 1,760,000.00	The current funding level of $1,353,700 has not been sufficientto cover the full annual cost of scholarships awarded. As aresult, no funding was available to contribute to the endowment balance. NMMI is requesting an increase to $1,760,000 to ensure 40% of the cost of attendance can be covered for all eligible cadets while preserving the strength of the endowment.
2	Grow the endowment balance through NMMI funding, with the objective of becoming programmatically sound in order to provide the maximum number of scholarships - 448.	$ -	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	The targeted $150,000 transfer to the endowment was not made in FY2026. Due to the need to draw from the endowment to fully cover scholarship costs, additional contributions were deferred. While the endowment remains solid, the priority this year was ensuring 100% coverage for scholarship recipients through a combination of endowment and legislative funding.
3	Maintain the ability to award a minimum of 40% of cost of attendance to each scholarship recipient.	100%	100%	100%	NMMI successfully met its goal of providing a minimum of 40% of the cost of attendance to each Knowles Legislative Scholarship recipient. In FY2026, 100% of the cost of attendance was covered for all recipients, made possible through a combination of endowment and legislative funding.
4	Maintain a ratio of 51% of scholarship recipients in relation to total New Mexico students on campus.	51%	51%	51%	SB 627 in (FY 08-09) expanded the eligibility for Knowles Legislative Scholarships, allowing awards to be made to cadets from any district when no applicants are available from the originating or contiguous districts. In fall of FY24, 92% of New Mexico cadets received the scholarship, based on the total number of enrolled New Mexico cadets (277).
5	Increase overall number of average scholarship recipients.	200	200	200	SB 627 in (FY 08-09) expanded the eligibility for Knowles Legislative Scholarships, allowing awards to be made to cadets from any district when no applicants are available from the originating or contiguous districts. In FY2026, NMMI awarded an average of 251 Knowles Legislative Scholarships - exceeding the goal of 200 and reflecting an increase of 24 scholarships awarded to New Mexico cadets compared to the previous year.
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Add Additional lines as needed